

THE NEW YORK HERALD.

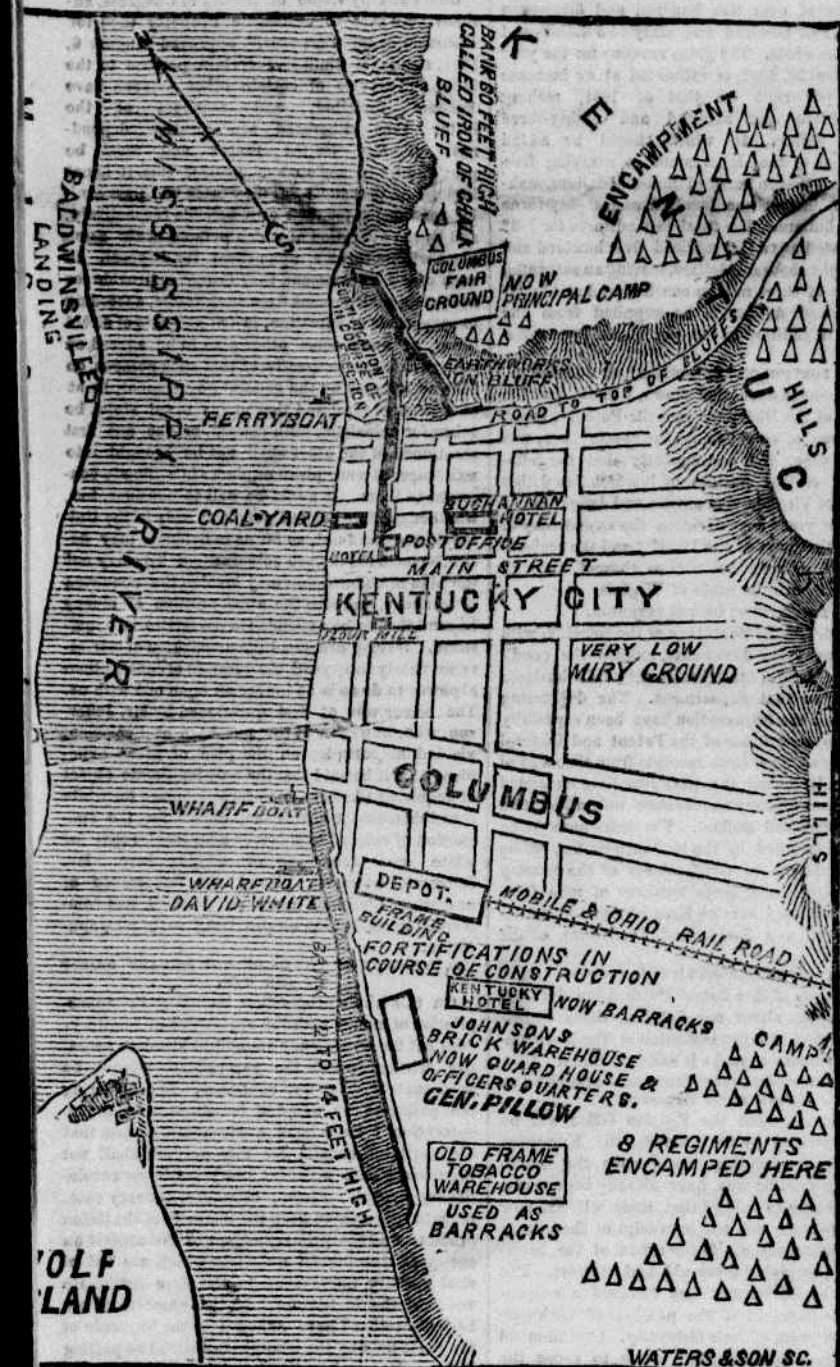
WHOLE NO. 9216.

NEW YORK, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4, 1861.—TRIPLE SHEET.

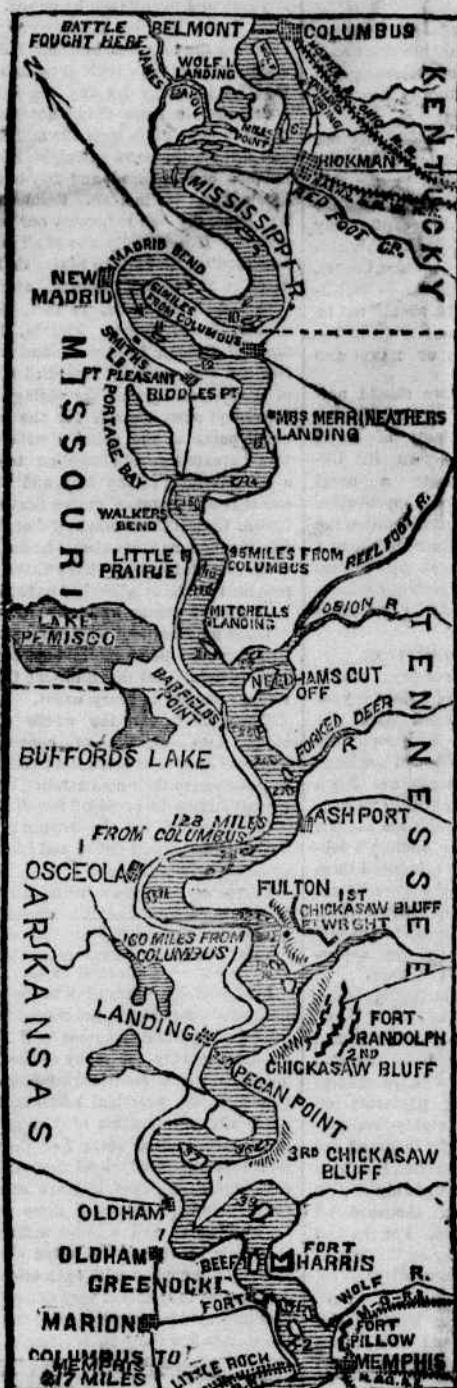
PRICE TWO CENTS.

THE MISSISSIPPI AND ITS REBEL FORTIFICATIONS, FROM COLUMBUS, KY., TO MEMPHIS, TENN.

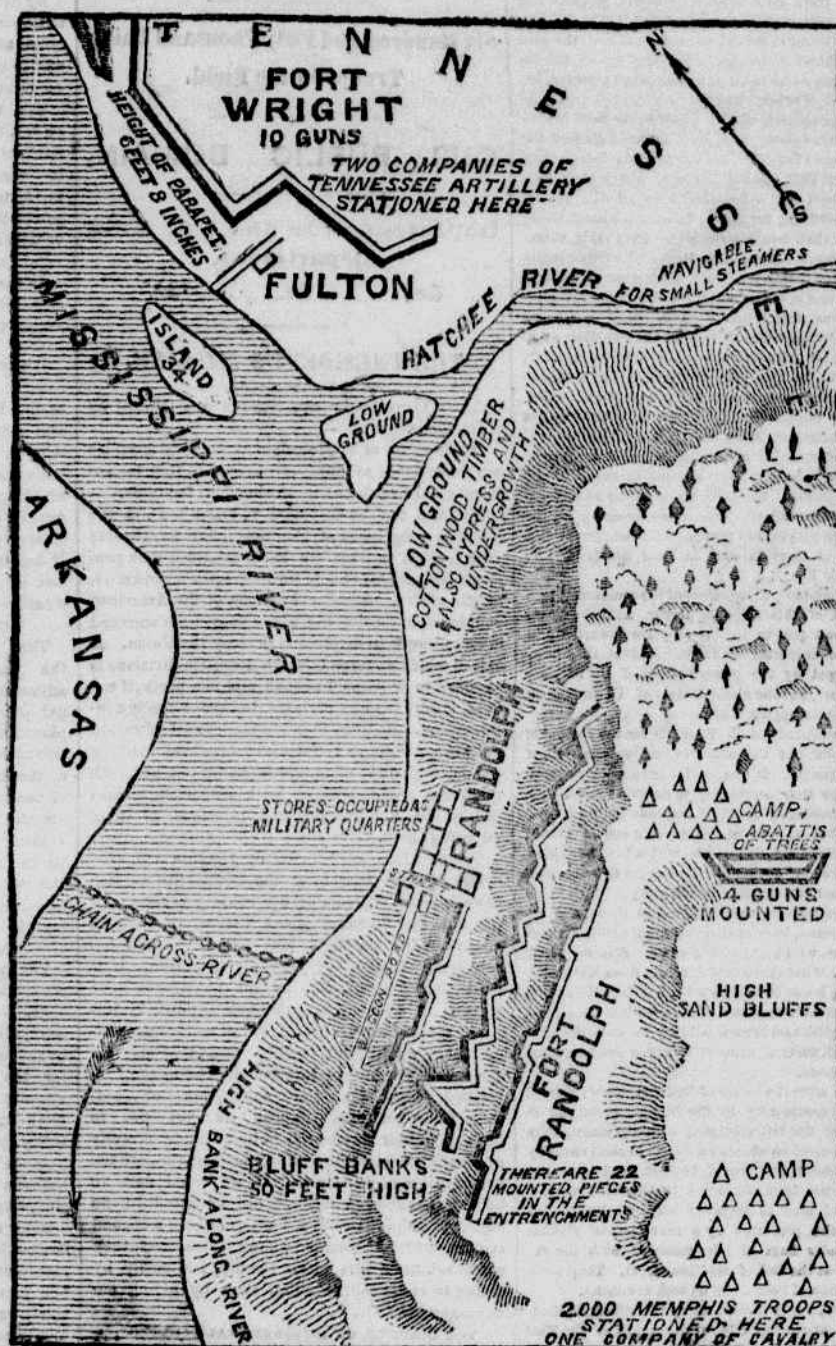
MAP OF COLUMBUS, KY., SHOWING THE REBEL FORTIFICATIONS.



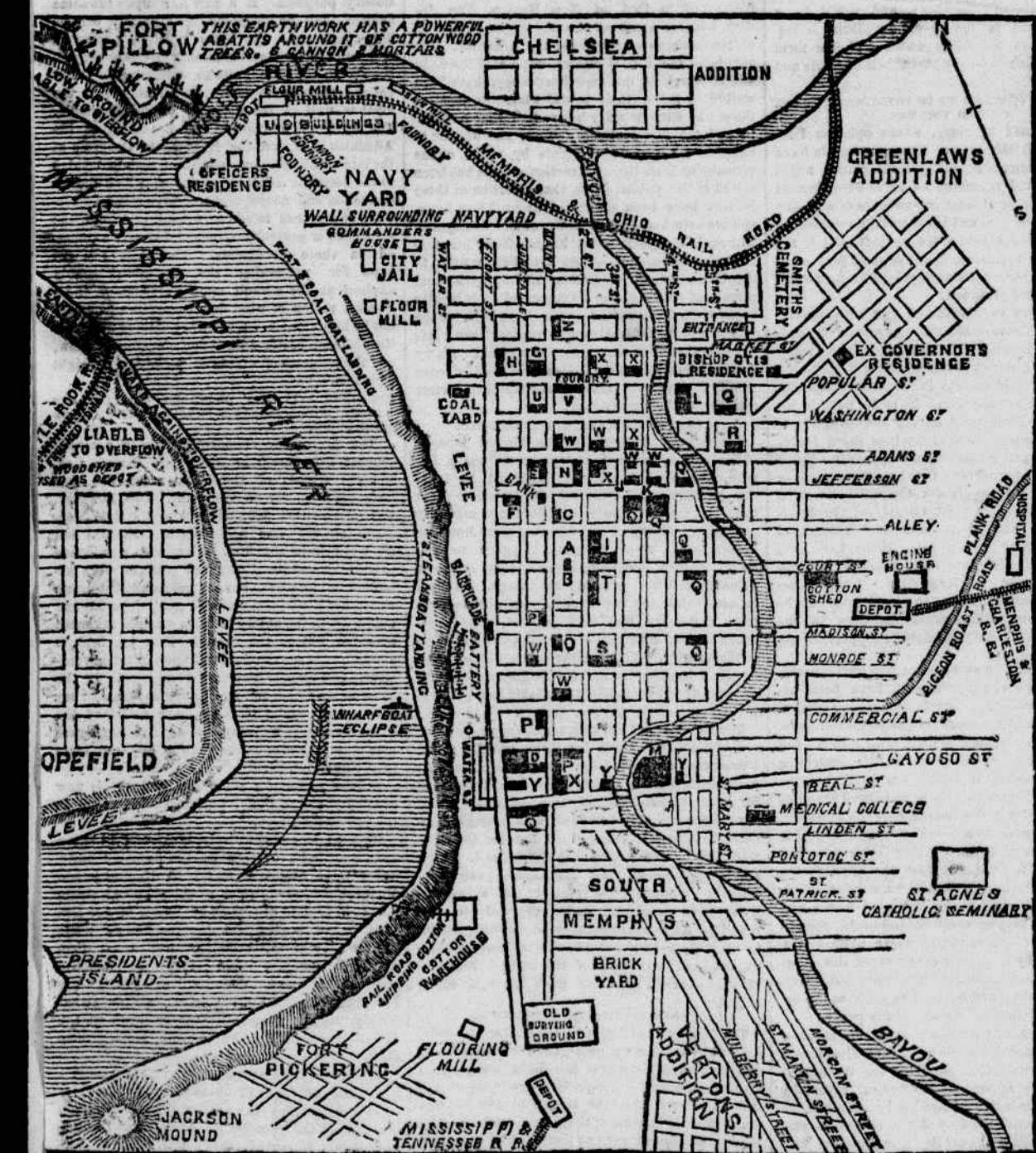
THE REBEL FORT HARRIS.



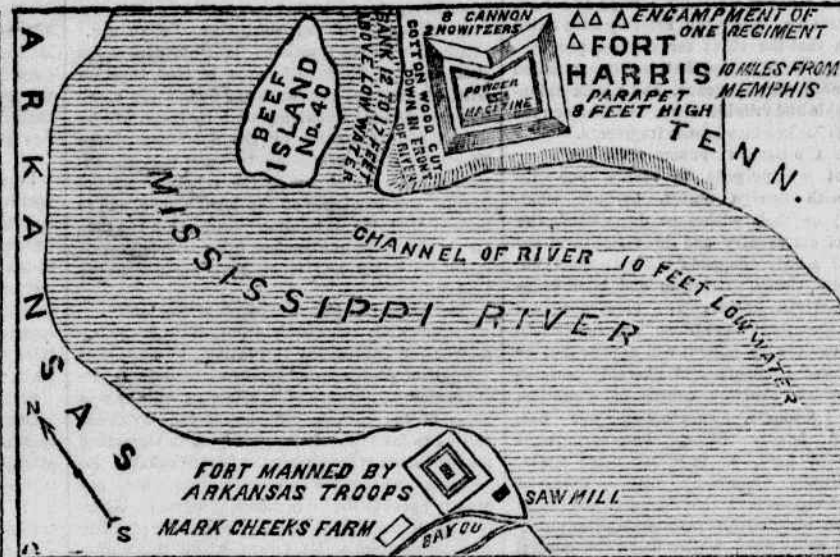
THE REBEL FORTS WRIGHT AND RANDOLPH.



MAP OF MEMPHIS AND THE REBEL FORT PILLOW.



MAP OF THE MISSISSIPPI RIVER.



THE MISSISSIPPI EXPEDITION.

What It Will Have to Meet and Overcome.

The Rebel Fortifications on the Mississippi.

Sketches of Columbus, Forts Wright, Randolph and Harris, and of Memphis and its Defences.

An expedition that, in point of military strength, throws completely into the shade that which, under Com. Dupont and Gen. Sherman, has given us possession of Fort Royal and the control of the Southern coast, is preparing, it is said, to make its way down the Mississippi from St. Louis and Cairo. The naval portion of it will consist of eleven gunboats, mounting over a hundred heavy guns, thirty-eight floating batteries, each carrying a sixty-four pound columbiad, and twenty-eight river steamers. Immense numbers of heavy guns and ordnance stores, for the use of the expedition, have been for some time past accumulating at Cairo, and the greatest energy is manifested by the officers entrusted with the preparations in carrying them forward in the quickest and most effective manner.

The naval part of the expedition is to be under the command of Commodore Foote, and that officer is now superintending the construction and armament of the gunboats. It is believed that the military portion of it will be commanded by the charge of Major General Halleck, who is now at the head of the Western Department. He is organizing a powerful army at St. Louis, which will be joined by the columns under General Grant at Cairo, and that of General Smith at Paducah. The aggregate number of the army that will move down the Mississippi (by land and water) is stated at from eighty to one hundred thousand men.

The maps of the Mississippi river and its fortifications, which we publish in connection with this article, will facilitate a proper understanding of the difficulties which the expedition will be called upon to surmount, and of the objects to be accomplished by it.

COLUMBUS, KY.

The first and perhaps greatest feat that it will have to

exception of one regiment from Louisiana, two from Mississippi and one from Arkansas. The regiments, however, were not numerically strong, and much sickness existed among them. The sick are generally sent to Memphis, the running time there by railroad being some hours.

FORTS WRIGHT AND RANDOLPH.
The next fortifications of any importance on the Mississippi river, of which we have any knowledge, are some fifty or sixty miles above Memphis, on what are known as the First and Second Chickasaw Bluffs. They are some ten miles apart, being separated by the Hatchee river, which is navigable for some distance by small steamers. Fort Wright is the more easterly one. It has ten guns mounted, and two companies of Tennessee artillery are stationed there.

Fort Randolph is a very extensive fortification, is heavily armed, and is defended by a company of flying artillery. It is built on terrace fashion, along the base of the Second Chickasaw Bluff, and looks somewhat like an ancient amphitheatre, rising gradually to the summit of the bluff. It has three tiers of works. The middle tier is a labyrinthine earthwork, mounting very heavy guns. It stands about thirty feet above the water level. There are in all twenty-two guns mounted here, of which four are sixty-four pounders and eight thirty-two pounders. They run on rectangular platforms, and seem to be in very good working order. As a whole, the fort is a perfect maze of earthworks, equipments, safety redoubts and powder magazines, the whole being the result of General Pillow's brilliant talents in engineering. They have also a heavy chain stretched across the river, designed to bring vessels to a dead stop in front of the batteries.

About the same time that Randolph—a miserable little village, containing only some twenty dilapidated frame buildings, now used by the soldiers—was occupied by Tennessee troops, two Arkansas regiments proceeded from Little Rock to Mond City, five miles above Memphis, on the opposite side, and there commenced fortifications, as also at Osceola, some twenty-five miles above Randolph. But these latter have been entirely abandoned, and the battery handed over to General Price's command.

FOOT NOTES.

Fort Harris is situated on the Tennessee side of the Mississippi, at a bend of the river, some ten miles above Memphis. The accompanying map illustrates its position, and gives an idea of its form. The bend of the river is known to pilots as Paddy's Hen and Chickens. The bank on which the fort stands is only some twelve or fourteen feet high. The fort is masked by very thick and high timber. On the west and north sides the timber has been cut down, forming a powerful abatis. The riverbank looks to be very firm, solid and well constructed. The parapet is eight feet in height, the interior slope being two and a half feet. The fort mounts eight thirty-two pounders, besides some small armory. The embankment is some eighty feet from the river.

MEMPHIS AND ITS DEFENCES.

Perhaps no Southern city felt to a more pernicious and blighting extent the destructive service of secession than the prosperous city of Memphis, on the Mississippi. She had been the second most important cotton mart of the South. No less than twelve regular packet and mail lines, embracing over forty steamboats, brought trade to her mercantile and industrial classes, and travellers to her hotels. Her population comprised the individual element of the North to an extent that told advantageously on her prosperity; and she did fair to become, and was fast becoming, the rival of St. Louis. That is all now a thing of the past. Her commerce is at an end, her industry, except in branches connected with the war, is utterly ruined; her industrial classes are either driven away Northward or absorbed in the rebel army—in a word, her prosperity is brought to naught. The frenzy of hate and bloodthirstiness which has seized on the Southern mind is nowhere more developed and manifested than at Memphis. Rights of property are entirely disregarded. The press gang was so outrageous in its operations as to call for the interference of the Mayor, who could only promise protection to the seceders or clean shirts. Goods are taken from the stores as well as the wages of their owners, and Confederate bonds are all the security that merchants receive. But woe to the traitor who should venture to refuse this currency. And all this ruin, outrage, violence and desolation have been brought upon the citizens of Memphis because they had